

AGENDA ITEM VII C 2

**PROGRESS REPORTS ON CONDITIONALLY APPROVED
PROGRAMS/CENTERS**

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA LAFAYETTE

CENTER FOR STRUCTURAL AND FUNCTIONAL MATERIALS

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At its meeting on December 9, 2004, the Board of Regents granted approval for this center for two years, as follows:

Approval is granted for the proposed Center for Structural and Functional Materials at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette, effective immediately, for a period of two years from this date. By December 1, 2006, the University shall submit a report to the Commissioner of Higher Education which details necessary funding secured for subsequent years of Center operations.

STAFF SUMMARY

The Center's base-line budget is projected as follows:

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Personnel <i>incl. GA's</i>	\$ 101,963	\$ 101,883	\$ 103,897	\$ 106,014	\$ 108,235
Travel	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Operating	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Supplies	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Total	\$ 111,963	\$ 111,883	\$ 113,897	\$ 116,014	\$ 118,235

A combination of university funds and external grants cover these costs. The Center notes also that "additional support funds for operating and expanding the Center are being generated by charging industrial users and the academic users of the Center who have outside funding for research."

Actual and pending revenue is reported as follows:

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
NSF, NIH <i>pending</i>	-	\$ 253,402	\$ 255,838	\$ 258,032	-
BOR	\$ 169,325	-	-	-	-
Fees	\$ 115,046	98,000	98,000	-	-
Total <i>in-hand</i>	\$ 284,371	\$ 98,000	\$ 98,000	-	-
Total <i>if grants awarded</i>	\$ 284,371	\$ 351,402	\$ 353,838	\$ 258,032	-

STAFF ANALYSIS

The staff notes that the University's report contains ample evidence of ongoing research activity at the Center (33 articles in two years since approval), and two patents pending.

The Center appears to have been successful in securing two external means of support: a Board of Regents grant and usage fees from external users. For the next three years, usage fees alone appear nearly to match the level of university support, though it's not clear in the report whether these funds return to the University. Pending grant activity is fairly significant and, if awarded, appears to secure the Center's financial stability for four years.

However, because the usage fees derive from a single external user and appear to be contractual only until 2010, and further, as federal grant funding is only pending, the staff believes it prudent to recommend that the Center be approved for an additional three years.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee receive the AY 2005-06 Progress Report from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette Relative to Implementation of the Center for Structural and Functional Materials. The Center is hereby granted continued approval through September 1, 2010. Thereafter, the University shall submit a proposal for Center reauthorization.